

## **REMARKS**

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated May 17, 2006. Claims 1-17 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, claims 1-17 were rejected. In this Amendment, claim 10 was amended. Claims 1-17 thus remain for consideration.

Applicant submits that claims 1-17 are in condition for allowance and requests withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

### **Interview**

Applicant would like to thank Examiner Reese for his time during an August 14, 2006 interview.

### **Objections to the Claims**

Claim 10 was objected to because of informality.

Claim 10 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, the above objection is traversed.

### **§ 103 Rejections**

Claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Keller (USPN-1,807,293), in view of case law, and further in view of Levy (US Patent Number 5,008,984).

Applicant submits that the independent claims (claims 1 and 10) are patentable over Keller and Levy – either taken alone or in combination.

As discussed during the August 14<sup>th</sup> interview, it was agreed that the limitation “the free end of the protuberance enters the slot through either the first or second external surfaces of the second housing to retain the first and second housings together” defines over the prior art of record.

That is, neither Levy nor Keller discloses a free end of a protuberance that enters a slot through either a first or second external surface of a second housing.

Levy merely discloses a pair of closure members that are secured by a clip 18. This clip 18 is inserted into an opening located on one of the closure members. The clip, however, may only be inserted into one side of the opening. The clip cannot enter the opening through either a first or second side of the closure member.

Keller discloses a male and female member. The male member includes an inclined inner end 20. This inclined inner end co-acts with an inclined portion of the female member thereby forcing the male member to be in a set position when placed within the female member. When set in place, a keeper is set in an opening of the male member. This keeper can only enter the opening of the male member when the inclined inner end and the inner portion are properly mated. The keeper cannot enter the opening of the male member through either a first or second side of the male member.

Because neither Levy nor Keller discloses a free end of a protuberance that enters a slot through either a first or second external surface of a second housing, Applicant believes that independent claims 1 and 10 are patentable over Keller and Levy.

Claims 2-9 depend on claim 1. Since claim 1 is believed to be patentable over Keller and Levy, claims 2-9 are believed to be patentable over Keller and Levy on the basis of their dependency on claim 1.

Claims 11-17 depend on claim 10. Since claim 10 is believed to be patentable over Keller and Levy, claims 11-17 are believed to be patentable over Keller and Levy on the basis of their dependency on claim 10.

### **CONCLUSION**

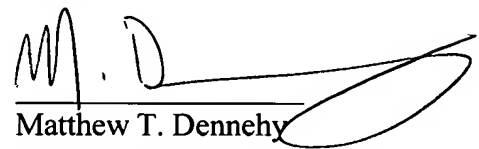
Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 06-0515.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephen E. Feldman, P.C.

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. T. Dennehy', followed by a large, sweeping horizontal stroke that extends to the right.

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